

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 CU-02 /082 W

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R 212005Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON INDOCHINA

REF: PARIS 27773 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN USUAL, PERIODIC TOUR D'HORIZON WITH EMBOFF
ON INDOCHINA SCENE, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, BOLLE,
SAID THAT THE LARGE DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING DRV POLITBURO
MEMBER LE DUC THO INDICATED THAT PROPAGANDA CONCERNING
THE DRV POSITION ON THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND IMPLEM-
ENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS WAS THE PRINCIPAL
PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. FRENCH EMBASSY REPORTS FROM
SAIGON INDICATED THE SITUATION WAS NOW QUIETER, BUT
PROBLEMS STILL EXIST. FRENCH WERE FURTHER ASSURED ABOUT
THE PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN LAOS BY THE SISOUK AID MISSION.
GOF REAFFIRMED TO LAO THAT IT COULD NOT PROVIDE MORE
AID. FRENCH CONTINUED TO THINK THAT UNGA CREDENTIALS
WAS STILL FOCUS OF KHMER STRUGGLE AT THIS TIME. END
SUMMARY

1. DRV BOLLE SAID THAT LE DUC THO'S PARTY HAD NOW
GROWN TO 14 WITH THREE NEW ADDITIONS. HE GAVE US THE
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FULL LIST. (REFTEL). BOLLE SAID THAT THE GOF DOES NOT

INTEND TO INITIATE ANY MOVE FOR OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH LE DUC THO. THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO SEE HIM IF HE ASKS, BUT TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS. THE FRENCH NOTED THE DRV ANNOUNCED THAT THO WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE. BOLLE BELIEVES THAT THE LARGE DELEGATION (INCLUDING TWO IMPORTANT OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY AT THE PARIS TALKS AND FIVE OTHERS FROM THE MFA WHO ACCOMPANIED THO ON HIS MAY AND DECEMBER TRIPS TO PARIS) INDICATE THAT PROPAGANDA, ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT THE VIETNAM SITUATION AND THE "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS" MAY BE THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE TRIP.

2. BOLLE SAID THAT CHAYET HAD ARRIVED BACK IN PARIS AFTER A "NORMAL" TOUR IN HANOI. ROBIN IS NOW CHARGE; THE QUAI EXTENDED HIS TOUR AT HIS REQUEST. THE FRENCH WILL SEND A NEW AMBASSADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. BOLLE SAID THAT THE DRV DELEGATION FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF THE 1974 AID PROTOCOL WOULD SOON ARRIVE IN PARIS.

4. GVN: BOLLE SAID THAT MERILLON HAD REPORTED FROM SAIGON THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT HAD DECLINED. THEY DID NOT THINK THAT THE PERIOD OF TROUBLES WAS OVER HOWEVER. BOLLE SAID THAT THEY WERE NOW ABOUT READY TO DISCUSS THE 1974 PROTOCOL ON FRENCH AID TO THE GVN ALSO.

5. BOLLE NOTED THAT THE GVN HAD TAKEN PARTICULAR CARE TO INDICATE THAT IT WAS NOT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL FRENCHMEN WHO WERE THE "COLONIALISTS" WHO WERE

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SUPPORTING THE THIRD FORCE, BUT FRENCH BUSINESSMEN. BOLLE COMMENTED THAT THE BUSINESSMEN WERE BEING VERY CAREFUL, BUT THEY HAD IN MOST CASES VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GVN LEADERS AND WERE NOT VERY WORRIED.

6. LAOS: THE FRENCH HAD FOUND IT INTERESTING TO CHAT WITH THE LAO AID DELEGATION COMPOSED PRINCIPALLY OF SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK AND BOUTSABONG SOUVANNAVONG. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE OF DIFFERENT PARTIES, AND THEIR OPPOSING VIEWS CAME THROUGH, THEIR EXCHANGES WERE BASICALLY FRIENDLY BANTER. THE FRENCH TOLD THE LAO THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE NO MORE AID AT THIS TIME; THEY WERE ALREADY PROVIDING QUITE A BIT AS THE LAO ADMITTED. BOLLE UNDERSTOOD THAT SISOUK HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF INCREASED AID FROM THE FRG WHEN HE WAS RECENTLY IN BONN. HE HAD CANCELED HIS TRIP TO ROME SINCE THE ITALIANS TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE NO ONE THERE TO WHOM HE COULD REALLY SPEAK. THE FRENCH HAD NOTED THAT SISOUK WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN BEFORE, AND THOUGHT THAT THE LAO EXPERIMENT WAS WORKING SUFFICIENTLY WELL IN THE SHORT TERM TO PROVIDE SOMEWHAT OF A MODEL FOR THE REST
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OF INDOCHINA. AS FOR THE LONG TERM, IT WAS HARD TO TELL JUST HOW THE TWO SIDES AND THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIP WOULD EVOLVE.

7. CAMBODIA: BOLLE NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPAL BATTLE WAS STILL IN THE UNGA WHERE THE VOTING ON PRIORITY AND THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WOULD BE VERY CLOSE. THE FRENCH HAD NOTED THAT AFTER THE FAIRLY REASONABLE -- THOUGH STILL TOUGH PIECE -- KHIEU SAMPHAN WROTE FOR THE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, HE HAD RELEASED A VERY HARD, BRUTAL STATEMENT IN AKI. THE FRENCH HAD NO INFORMATION ON UNESCO DEFECTOR IM SAROEUN OTHER THAN WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS. HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANY NEW DOCUMENTATION -- BUT THEN HIS VISA WAS VALID FOR QUITE

A TIME ANYWAY. THE FRENCH SAW NO INDICATION THAT THE
GRUNK WOULD ATTEMPT A NEW OFFENSIVE IN UNESCO SO
SHORTLY BEFORE IT ENDED AND JUST BEFORE THE MORE
SPECTACULAR UNGA FIGHT.
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